



**For immediate release
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**Contact: Wendy Fox
617-626-1453**

DCR BEGINS REHABILITATION OF THE PRINT SHOP AT BROOK FARM HISTORIC SITE

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has begun work to stabilize the Print Shop at the Brook Farm Historic Site in West Roxbury.

The Print Shop, constructed in about 1890, is the last remaining historic building at Brook Farm, a designated National Historical Landmark. The building is not associated with the Transcendentalist utopian community that briefly flourished on the property in the mid-19th century. Rather, it was built by the Lutheran Church, which operated the Martin Luther Orphan's Home on the property from 1871 to 1944. The building housed the orphanage's printing operations, which produced Lutheran newspapers and a variety of religious books, pamphlets, and other parish and church literature.

The stabilization work consists of repairing the structural frame of the Print Shop; installing new clapboards, roofing, and sills; and restoring the basement wall to its original appearance. Due to damage from long-term water infiltration, a major portion of the building's stone foundation must be dismantled and rebuilt.

The work is intended to halt further deterioration of the building while DCR plans for its future reuse. The Print Shop building has been largely vacant for several years, used intermittently for storage.

"We are very pleased to be able to start restoring this historic building and halt any future damage from the elements," said DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan. "We look forward to finding a suitable and appropriate use for the Print Shop in the future."

Keegan Contracting Inc. of Brighton was awarded the \$350,000 contract to undertake the Print Shop repairs. In 2007, the contractor worked with DCR to install a new cedar shingle roof and repair the chimney at the building. The current construction, which began this month, is expected to be completed in late July.

"West Roxbury and the Brook Farm site are rooted in the history of Boston and the Commonwealth," said State Senator Marian Walsh. "These repairs and renovations will fortify the Print Shop as a lasting part of our local living history."

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

"As chairman of the Legislative Parks Caucus and the Representative from this district, I'm thrilled that DCR is investing in this project" said State Representative Michael Rush. "This is a historic building and a jewel in our park system. It is crucial that we take such steps to preserve the treasures in our Commonwealth".

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.